



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES  
*Superintendent*

February 27, 2009

TO: ALL FUGITIVE RECOVERY AGENTS/ BOUNTY HUNTERS AND BAIL BOND AGENTS:

The New Jersey State Police, Private Detective Unit, has requested and received legal advice pertaining to New Jersey licensed Bail Bond Agents and New Jersey licensed Bounty Hunters. This information is being disseminated to enhance the integrity of the licensing and regulatory requirements of the Bounty Hunter Licensing Act. The following information shall be applied and enforced with regard to Bounty Hunters by the New Jersey State Police, Private Detective Unit:

- New Jersey Bail Bond Agents are licensed and regulated by the Division of Banking and Insurance (DOBI). New Jersey Bail Bond agents are required to monitor defendants released on their bail agreement and may utilize employees of their Bail Bond Agency to contact and monitor such defendants.
- Once a defendant fails to appear in court, the defendant becomes a "skip" or "fugitive" and the Bail Bond agent is required to produce the defendant in court.
- Only the licensed Bail Bond agent, who personally issued the bond to the defendant, may search, locate and apprehend the fugitive without being licensed by the Bounty Hunter Licensing Act.
- Once a defendant becomes a "fugitive" or "skip," employees of the licensed Bail Bond Agency may no longer be involved in the investigation, in any capacity whatsoever to locate and/or apprehend the fugitive.
- Only the Bail Bond agent that personally issued the bond may conduct the apprehension.
- This instance is only permissible when the bail bondsman will not collect any additional fee or reward for locating and apprehending the fugitive. If additional monies, fees,



incentives or rewards are present, then the Bail Bond Agent exemption to the Bounty Hunter Licensing Act no longer applies.

- Anyone, other than an exempted bail bond agent, participating in the locate and/or apprehension of the fugitive must possess a New Jersey Bounty Hunter License.
- This exemption only applies to those holding a New Jersey Bail Bond Agent license. Bail Bond Agents from states other than New Jersey are not recognized and are not afforded this exemption.
- The New Jersey Division of Banking and Insurance (DOBI) shall occupy this field as the issuing authority for New Jersey Bail Bond Agent licenses.
- Bail Bond Agents licensed outside of New Jersey shall be required to either obtain a New Jersey Bail Bond Agent license, in order to pursue a defendant in New Jersey on a bond they personally issued or, obtain a New Jersey Bounty Hunter License.

For a posting of Bounty Hunter legislation, applicable Administrative Codes, updates, changes, instructions, and frequently asked questions, applicants can access the Private Detective Unit Homepage at, <http://njsp.org/about/private-detective.html>. The application link is located in the "Bounty Hunter" section. You may also contact the Private Detective Unit, at (609) 341-3426.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FOR COLONEL JOSEPH R. FUENTES  
SUPERINTENDENT

Sincerely,



Lieutenant Edward McDonough  
Unit Supervisor  
Private Detective Unit  
New Jersey State Police